

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for managing access to a service, comprising the step of:
  - (A) delegating a permission to a delegatee by a delegator, wherein said permission is represented using a digital signature;
    - wherein said permission comprises authority to access the service and delegate one or more further permissions to one or more subsequent delegatees; and
    - wherein at least one delegation of permission occurs over a personal area network while physical presence exists between the delegator and the delegatee.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said personal area network comprises two or more devices that transmit data by infrared light waves.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said personal area network comprises two or more devices that transmit data by digital short-range radio waves.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
  - (B) delegating one or more of the further permissions to said one or more subsequent delegatees via electronic mail.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the service comprises accessing content.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the service comprises actuating a device.
7. A system for managing access to a service, comprising:
  - a delegation device that delegates a permission to a delegatee wherein said permission is represented using a digital signature;
  - wherein said permission comprises authority to access the service and delegate one or more further permissions to one or more subsequent delegatees; and

wherein at least one delegation of permission occurs over a personal area network while physical presence exists between the delegator and the delegatee.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein one or more of said further permissions to said one or more subsequent delegatees are delegated via electronic mail.

9. The system of claim 7 wherein said personal area network comprises two or more devices that transmit data by infrared light waves.

10. The system of claim 7 wherein said personal area network comprises two or more devices that transmit data by digital short-range radio waves.

11. The system of claim 7 wherein said service comprises accessing content.

12. The system of claim 7 wherein said service comprises actuating a device.